

Sample Slab Update #23 – December 2017

The newsletter for sample slab collectors

Market Notes

The best discovery of the last two months was a PCGS rattler with a 1961 proof dime graded PR64. Solid-zero proof rattlers sell occasionally, but this is the first “regular” rattler sample with a proof coin. With many collectors pursuing early PCGS and no previous sales records, this is a desirable type. Congratulations to the buyer who got it for just \$9.99 as a quick Buy It Now. The catalog lists this holder, PCGS-010-1-4, for \$65 but it could go higher in an auction.

Slab collectors sometimes get desirable holders for not much money when uninformed sellers list them cheaply. The second best cherrypick of the last two months was a PCGS Switzerland half franc (PCGS-Sf1/2-3-1, catalogs at \$95), that went for \$15.95 in a Buy It Now.



Where did all this gold come from?

The [last newsletter](#) discussed how four examples of a PCGS promotional slab issued by Universal Coin and Bullion (UCB) appeared on eBay after no sales for at least four years. Somehow, four more sold on eBay since then, each earning around \$145. I don't see a common link between the sellers, who are in different parts of the U.S., so it is a mystery how all these scarce slabs appeared at the same time.

A sample from seldom-seen issuer World Banknote Grading earned \$66, this time largely on the strength of the enclosed note, one of the famous Zimbabwe hundred trillion dollars. When these notes first appeared on the market around 2011, they sold for \$5 or less, making them cheap enough to put in a sample slab. Now these notes earn about \$50.

Not Quite Samples – PCGS 1.0 Brings Four Figures at Great Collections

As described in a [Coin World article](#), Great Collections sold a PCGS type 1.0 holder [for \\$1,181.25 on November 12](#). This is \$956 more than the PCGS Price Guide value of the enclosed coin, an MS65 1943-S half dollar.

The PCGS Museum of Coin Holders explains that the [type 1.0](#) was used by PCGS only for their first few days in business in February 1986. You can tell the 1.0 by the serial number beginning with 1080, the smooth (not ribbed) label, and dot matrix printing with lower quality than the dot matrix used later.

I know the collector who bought this coin, and he told me that other slab collectors are building type sets, collecting as many different types of coins in 1.0 holders as possible. A Morgan, he explained, is more common (although all 1.0 holders are rare) and would earn a smaller premium. He also told me he has already received offers to buy the slab.

Prices for scarce coin holders continue to rise. The most famous, the NGC black holder used in their first few days of operation in 1987, [went for \\$3,740 in a September 2016](#) Great Collections Auction. On November 14, 2017, Coin Rarities Online offered an NGC black with an 1898 Morgan to their mailing list for \$4,975. When I checked their site November 19, it was sold.

If you have a PCGS 1.0 or an NGC black, I am interested in both.

PCGS Rattlers – Scarcity and Prices

Collectors love to build sets, and the PCGS-010-1-3 rattler lends itself well to set building. The holders appear with several dates, including common dates that make it easy to get started. Let's look at the eBay sales records to find what dates exist, as well as the frequency and value of each. These prices cover about three years and exclude the more valuable solid-zero rattlers.

| Year | Sales | Average |
|--------|-------|---------|
| 1957 | 2 | \$ 71 |
| 1958 | 0 | \$ - |
| 1958-D | 1 | \$ 76 |
| 1960 | 10 | \$ 26 |
| 1960-D | 14 | \$ 22 |
| 1961 | 11 | \$ 24 |
| 1961-D | 9 | \$ 25 |
| 1962 | 4 | \$ 46 |
| 1962-D | 12 | \$ 20 |
| 1963 | 18 | \$ 24 |
| 1963-D | 30 | \$ 21 |
| 1964 | 25 | \$ 22 |
| 1964-D | 53 | \$ 22 |
| | 189 | \$ 23 |

It turns out my microeconomics textbook was right – the scarcer the date, generally the higher the price. Of the 13 known dates, the 1964-D is by far the most common. Collectors were willing to pay about triple the average price for scarce 1957 and 1958-D coins, and certainly would pay similar amounts if a 1958 came up for sale. Interestingly, it appears that 1959 and 1959-D rattlers do not exist, although new discoveries turn up all the time. Does anyone own a date not on this list?

Notes from Sample Slab Update Readers

Robert Denaro writes,

“Just found this new NGC slab last night. It appears to be similar to last year's PCGS 30th anniversary medal slabs. According to the [press release from NGC](#) the Chinese mint made various anniversary medals for NGC, in gold and silver as well as trimetallic. The press release states at the end of the notice that they're only available in China.



I'm not exactly sure if this qualifies as a sample/promotional slab but I thought this would be of interest to you, and other sample collectors since it's so similar to the 30th anniversary medallions from PCGS last year. I have several of the other PCGS medallions, so this should certainly go nicely with them.

(a few days later)

I just received the NGC medal slab in the mail today. The medal itself is very nice and it's about the size of the US half dollar. It's got a very frosty looking front similar to the unstruck fields of a reverse proof coin, but the center of the obverse and the entire reverse resembles a regular proof piece. I really like the middle and it's pretty nice looking in hand. I especially like the trimetallic style which is sometimes used in the Chinese panda series coins nowadays.

The medal's slab cert number can be looked up using NGC certification verification feature on their website. The verification feature shows the population of the medal in grade of 69 so it looks like the medallion is definitely listed on the NGC population report as well, which probably makes this even more interesting.

I have also noticed on eBay some of these trimetallic medals have appeared in NGC holders with a grade of 70 since I purchased mine. I think the 70 grade certainly makes the medal even more interesting now.”

Thanks, Robert, I had no idea about this until you told me. I agree that, if the popular PCGS 30th anniversary medals are samples, then these are, also. I wonder why they are not available in the US - I am sure collectors would want them. Being made by a government mint adds to their appeal.

Has anyone seen a gold or silver version? -David

David Aichinger writes,

“I just purchased a 1943-P Jefferson nickel in an NGC sample holder. It has a coin number of 145534-013. I noticed in the 2nd edition of your book, page 227 shows coin number 145534-011 (catalog # NGC-005-3-1).

I went to NGC's website to verify certification in hopes of getting a population on this sample coin. I searched coin 145534-001 to 145534-020 with the grade of MS 64 and other. No sample nickels came up, only sample dimes. Both of our coins came up as 1959 sample dimes. I know that your book states that this sample is the most desirable nickel sample. Do you have any more information on the population of this sample?”

Most NGC samples have submission and serial numbers, and these often give information on populations. However, NGC often reuses submission numbers for samples and 145534 is one of those numbers used for a variety of slabs. Further complicating, the same serial number (the three digits after the submission number) might also be reused. For example, if NGC makes 500 samples, they might number them 204782-001 through -500. Just as often, they number the samples -001 through -100 five times.

I can tell you that the NGC war nickels are scarce. Here is what I observed on eBay from about August 2013 - November 2017. Six sold in four years, four from a hoard that came out in August 2015.

11/30/14 1943P 145434-011
8/11/15 1943P 145534-004
8/28/15 1943P 145334-004
8/28/15 1943P 145334-005
8/28/15 1943D 145334-021
10/30/17 1943S 145334-033

All have grade MS 64. It also looks like all are 1943 coins. I hope that helps, and keep researching. The certifiers have not yet given up all their secrets. -David



Isaiah Hageman writes about this new ICG holder from the 2017 Blue Ridge Numismatic Association show

“After giving slabs to the youth for free, they were sold to the public and dealers for \$35 each, and the public/dealers could only buy one per person. I thought it was cool that they sent me #500 of 500.”

Thanks for the new type, Isaiah. ICG hasn't been making many samples lately. Only a few samples came with paperwork. Green label PCGS war nickels are an example. -David

Bill Anderson writes,

Here is a pic of a newly issued ANACS slab from MSNS (Michigan State Numismatic Society). Michael White of ANACS told me there were a total of 66 produced.

Bill, thanks for yet another high quality image. No-one does one-cent samples better than you. -David



Book News

Some copies of the Sample Slabs, second edition, book remain. Buy it for \$29 with shipping (\$12 for the PDF download) at SampleSlabBook.com or eBay.

I don't have plans to make a third edition, but keep accumulating photos, types, and pricing information. An update or partial update, could happen. You could fill a book just with the new types appearing at coin shows in Asia.

Buying and Selling

Thank you to everyone who bought one of the PCGS Regency Danny Kaye sets. Heritage recently sold another modest coin in a Regency holder (an MS63 1939 Canada dollar) [on November for \\$1,440](#) with buyer's premium. Based on this result, I am happy to say that readers who bought one of the Kaye sets for \$750 or \$800 got a good deal.

Buying

Burton Strauss writes,

Want to Buy: Uncommon 50 States /America the Beautiful Quarter Samples

Looking for specific states/territories to finish my set: Need: Idaho, Utah, Washington (WA), Wyoming and Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas, US Virgin Islands. SAMPLE is best, but Show, Society, etc. is acceptable too. Any slabbing company is ok if it's sonically sealed – in fact the more obscure the better :-)...I'm cheap so no 5oz silver pucks (already have one). Send pic and ask price to statesamples@feliscatus.org.

Selling

The biggest ever sample slab sale is coming soon: Sample Slab Update Sale #5. This fixed price list will surpass the 55-lot Sale #4 with at least 75 lots. One teaser is available for sale now – see below.



PCGS 30th Anniversary medal - David Hall signature edition. This is a better variety of the 1986-2016 PCGS 30th Anniversary medal with the David Hall signature label. EBay sales averaged \$130. Yours for **\$115**.

The discount for paying by check is now 10%. Email me (davidschwager@hotmail.com) for a mailing address. Or I can send a PayPal invoice for the amount listed above. Free shipping with either payment method.

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